

Drawing Near to God--How do I spend time with God? Part 2

Connect: Ask people in the group how their Easter was. *“Last week we read the story of Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead. Why was it important that he died? Why was it important that he rose from the dead?”* (This is a great place to share the Gospel...Jesus died to set us free from our sins, and rose from the dead so that we could have a new life and a new identity--without shame because he can change us!)

Ask them, *“Did you try out on your own the Bible study method we tried last week? How did it go?”*

“This week we’re going to try a different way to read the Bible. It’s something you can do by yourself or in a group of friends. We’re going to read a passage from the Bible, and you’re going to imagine yourself in the story, experiencing it as one of the characters.

The passage we’re reading is Acts 8:26-40. Here’s some background. After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave his disciples the task of taking the good news that people could be forgiven all over the world. In this story, Philip, one of the early Christians, has an opportunity to share the story of Christ to an influential person from another culture. We’re going to read the story twice through.”

Read Acts 8:26-40. Then divide your familia into two groups (there are two characters). One group is going to imagine they are Philip, and the other will imagine they’re the Ethiopian.

“Now we’re going to read it again. As we read it, think about what your character experiences...What do I see and hear? What do I smell, taste, or touch? What am I thinking or feeling?”

Read the passage again slowly, and then ask these questions:

- 1.) What do I see and hear, smell, taste, or touch? What do I think of the other guy?
- 2.) What do I want or need the most?
- 3.) Is there anything that confuses you about your character?
- 4.) Look at verse 35. What is the “good news” Philip told the Ethiopian?
- 5.) How can you relate to your character?
- 6.) How does this story connect with our lives today? How might God want you to respond to this?
- 7.) Who do you know that needs to know this good news Jesus gave us to share?

Wrap up

*“Try out this way of reading God’s Word this week on your own or with another friend. A great passage for you to try is **Mark 4:35-41.**”*